

**Permanent Mission of Egypt statement**

**IDB 49<sup>th</sup> Session – 12-15 July 2021**

**Agenda Item 10: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa**

Madam President,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of The Group of 77 & China and the African Group; and would like to make the following remarks based on its national capacity.

Egypt would like to express its appreciation for the contents of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and it would like also to thank the Director General of UNIDO and the Secretariat for their efforts in this respect.

Madam President,

Egypt pays particular attention to the future work of UNIDO in Africa. We believe that the most vital priority during the upcoming period is the completion of the structure of the new secretariat of IDDA III by the end of this summer so that it would be able to prepare a clear and precise program of action to boost the organization's work in Africa, and achieve the targets stipulated in the IDDA III.

Furthermore, Egypt believes that there is a necessity to expand UNIDO's support for the execution of the industrial projects in Africa which can particularly ease the struggle of poor communities and families through the creation of jobs and economic opportunities in general. This is also beside the importance of supporting the work aiming at assisting the development of national strategies related to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Egypt is also convinced that there is a substantial opportunity currently to focus on the industrial sectors that best serve the interests of the African countries, particularly in the medical and pharmaceutical industries, electricity production and transfer, access to efficient renewable energy resources, agricultural and food processing industries and several other priority sectors where the African national economies have either substantial needs or competitive advantages. This can definitely be assisted by the efficient and expanded support of the PCPs and CPs executed by UNIDO in Africa, as well as various technical cooperation programmers carried out with international and national partners in each country.

As for the impact of COVID-19 and its ramifications in the African continent, Egypt is pleased to inform that it has already started producing a vaccine for Covid-19 in collaboration with one of the Chinese companies that has developed an effective vaccine against this virus. The target of this process is to produce 10 Million doses of the vaccine each month and expand this process to provide the vaccine to other countries especially in the African continent and the Middle East.

In this context, Egypt is convinced that UNIDO and other international organizations and financial institutions should keep expanding their work and cooperation with the national African authorities to build the capacities to produce and import the vaccines to the African countries. Additionally, there is a need to continue to boost the capacity to produce the personal protection gears and medical equipment required to prevent and deal with the infections from this virus.

Thank you, Madam President.

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